Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells.

Victorian Week 1995.

From

# VICTORIA

To

# ELIZABETH

*"The Victorian Legacy"*

**ADMISSION FREE**

**(Collection for new Church Tower and Bells)**

**Souvenir Programme: 50p**

# An Introduction to the Exhibition

It is the nature of every great age that it continues to influence and inspire the generations that follow it. During the reign of Queen Victoria, so much was achieved, so many changes occurred, so many processes were begun, that their momentum was bound to carry them well beyond the end of the century.

Queen Victoria's death in 1901 marked the end of an era but in no way checked the tide of history. Forces held back by the stability which she imposed on her last years were released and a new energy vitalised our nation as it entered the twentieth century.

Our exhibition traces that Victorian legacy through some of the most significant events of the first half of the twentieth century - from the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 to the Coronation of a new Queen, Elizabeth II in 1953.

- The Exhibition has been prepared by our Church members, about 100 of whom have worked together before or during the week under the leadership of the Rector and Churchwardens.
- The displays have been arranged by our Church Design Group led by Ruth Jones and Beryl Lichtenstein. The Group meets every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year and also produces displays for Church Festivals. Construction work is done by the Church Builders Group who meet on Thursday evenings.
- Flower arrangements are by members of the Holy Trinity Flower Arrangers under the leadership of Adele Bevan. Teams are led by Sandra Chapman, Heather Richardson, Grace Lawrence and Avril James.
- Work by the Church Embroiderers' Guild is to be seen around the church. The group is led by Jennie Morgan and meets on Thursday afternoons in term time.
- Refreshments are served in the Church Centre by Church members under the leadership of Sybil Inskip.

1.

# The Death of Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria died peacefully at her seaside home, Osborne House in the Isle of Wight, on January 22nd 1901. She was 81 and had been Queen for 63 years since 1838. Most of her large family were gathered at her bedside, among them the new monarch, King Edward VII who was already 59 years old. The Queen had been a widow for 40 years since the death of her husband Albert in 1861. She was buried on February 4th and the whole nation mourned her passing. Every house was draped in black and a 'strange silence engulfed the country and the Empire'.

# The Edwardian Age

Edward VII was crowned King on August 9th 1902 - the coronation having been delayed because the King had been forced to undergo an operation for appendicitis, at that time a hazardous and painful procedure. During his reign, and also from 1919 that of George V, life in Britain underwent many changes. Most noticeable was the revolution in communications with the rapid development of motor transport, ocean liners and early aeroplanes. With the application of wireless communication and new discoveries in electronics a new age began to dawn. Social change was also rapid and the movement for the women's suffrage began to command widespread support.

3.

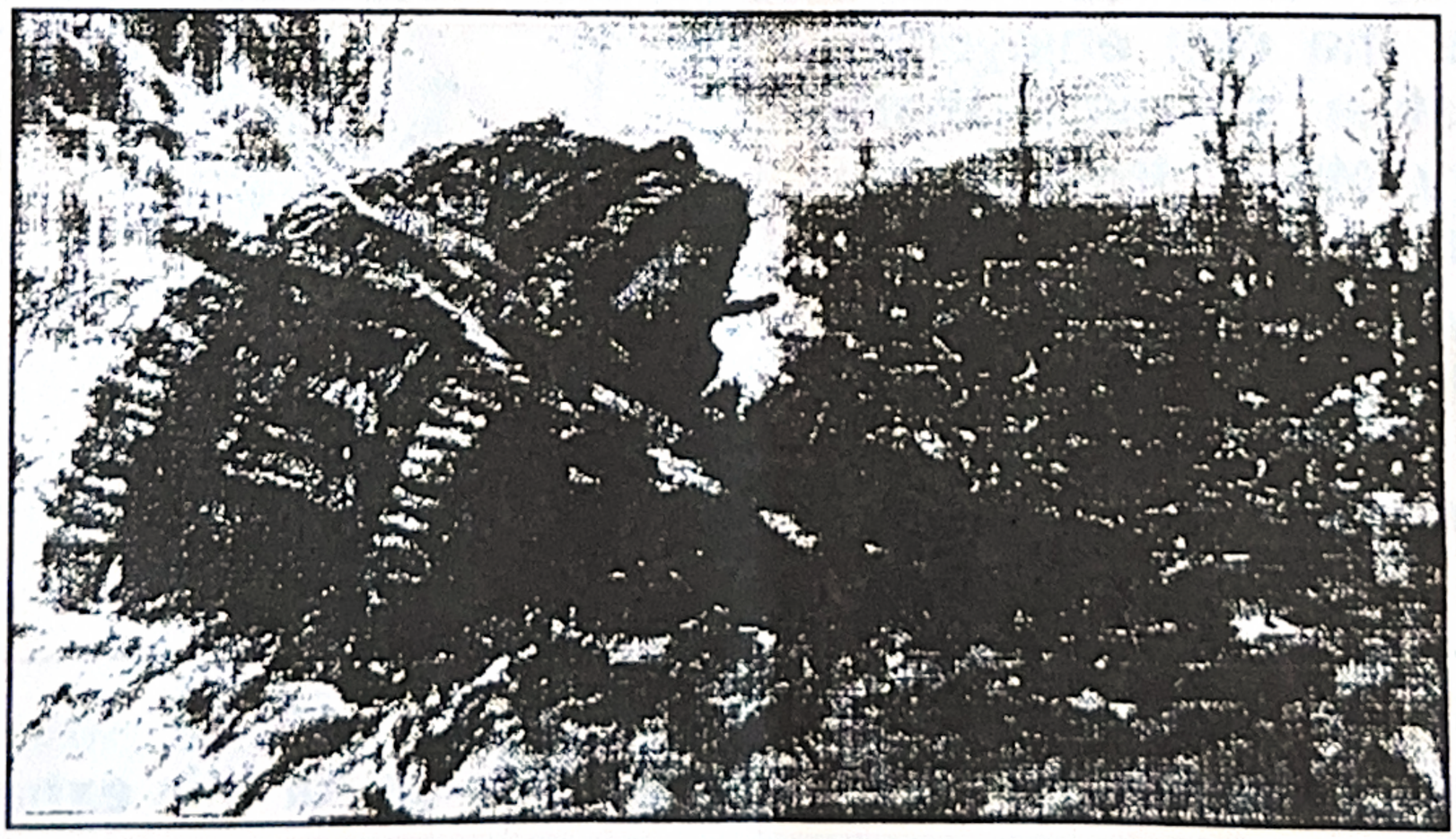
# The First World War

The 'War to end War' tore Europe apart and destroyed a generation. This event has left a scar on every community in this and other countries, as the long lists of the names recorded on War Memorials in every town and village bear witness. The tragic results of this conflict cast a long shadow over the world, and in the mud and muddle of Flanders the hopes of many were lost forever.

Over 10 million were killed, about 75,000 from Britain, many millions left seriously injured, and countless families and individuals traumatised by bereavement or anxiety.

Behind our display stands the great west window which is a memorial to those from this country and the Empire who gave their lives in the first world war. On the tablets below two individuals are commemorated, Edith Cavell, a British nurse who was executed as a spy, and Lord Kitchener, one of our foremost military leaders.

In our Memorial Chapel you will find information about two organisations which began their work in response to the needs revealed by the war and are both still active in our town today. These are the Royal British Legion and Toc H..

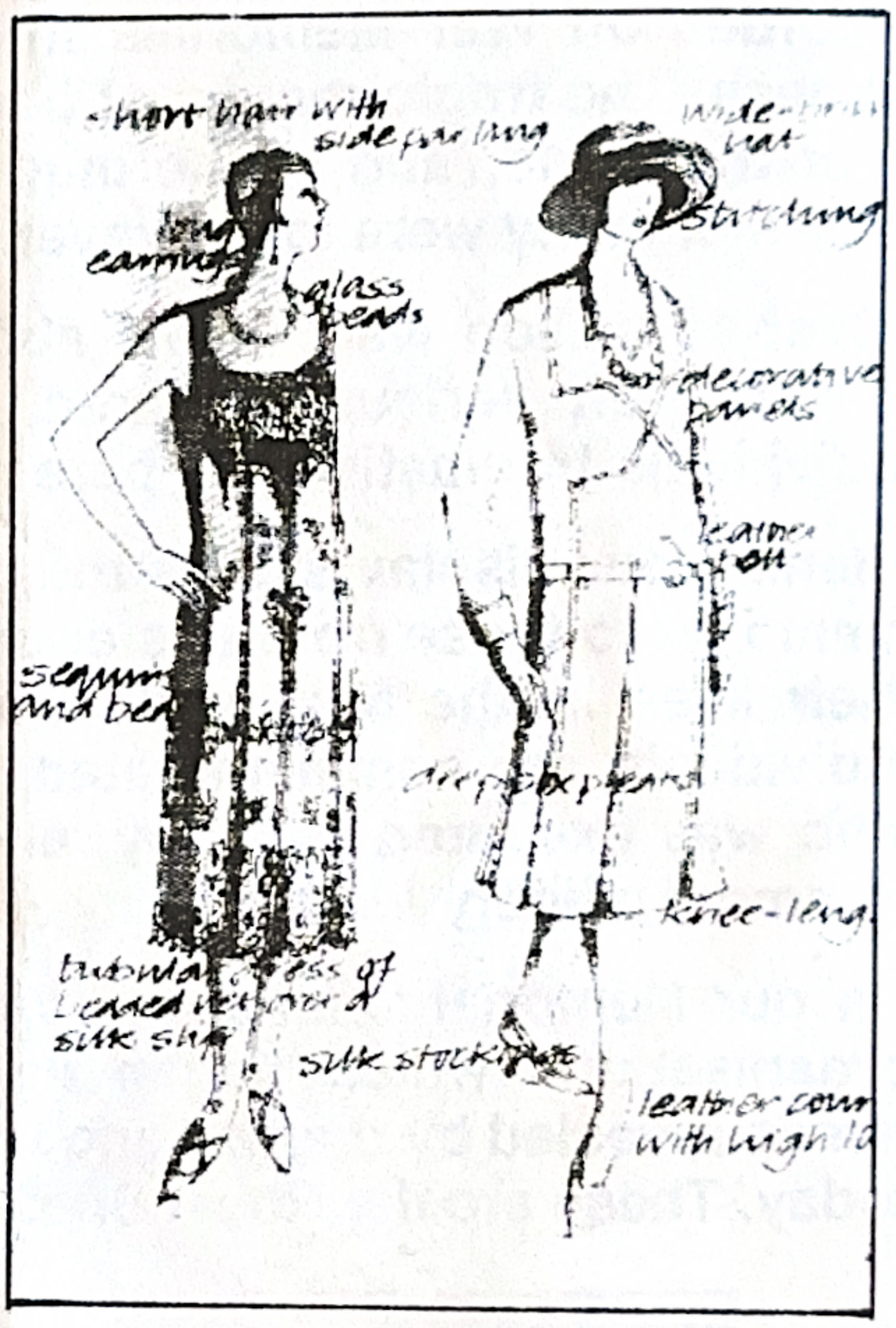


# 4.

# The Twenties

We now turn our backs on the horrors of the first world war and look forward towards the gaiety of the twenties. The flower arrangement on your left and the panels on your right speak of a period of vitality and progress. The panels illustrate the progress of our town during this post-war period when many of our hotels and boarding houses were at their busiest during each summer season and many expected a period of prosperity and expansion to continue.

Yet for many in our society this was a period of poverty and exploitation. While the rich enjoyed a life style of extravagant luxury others lived in increasing deprivation. For many who returned from the war this was not destined to become a 'land fit for heroes'.

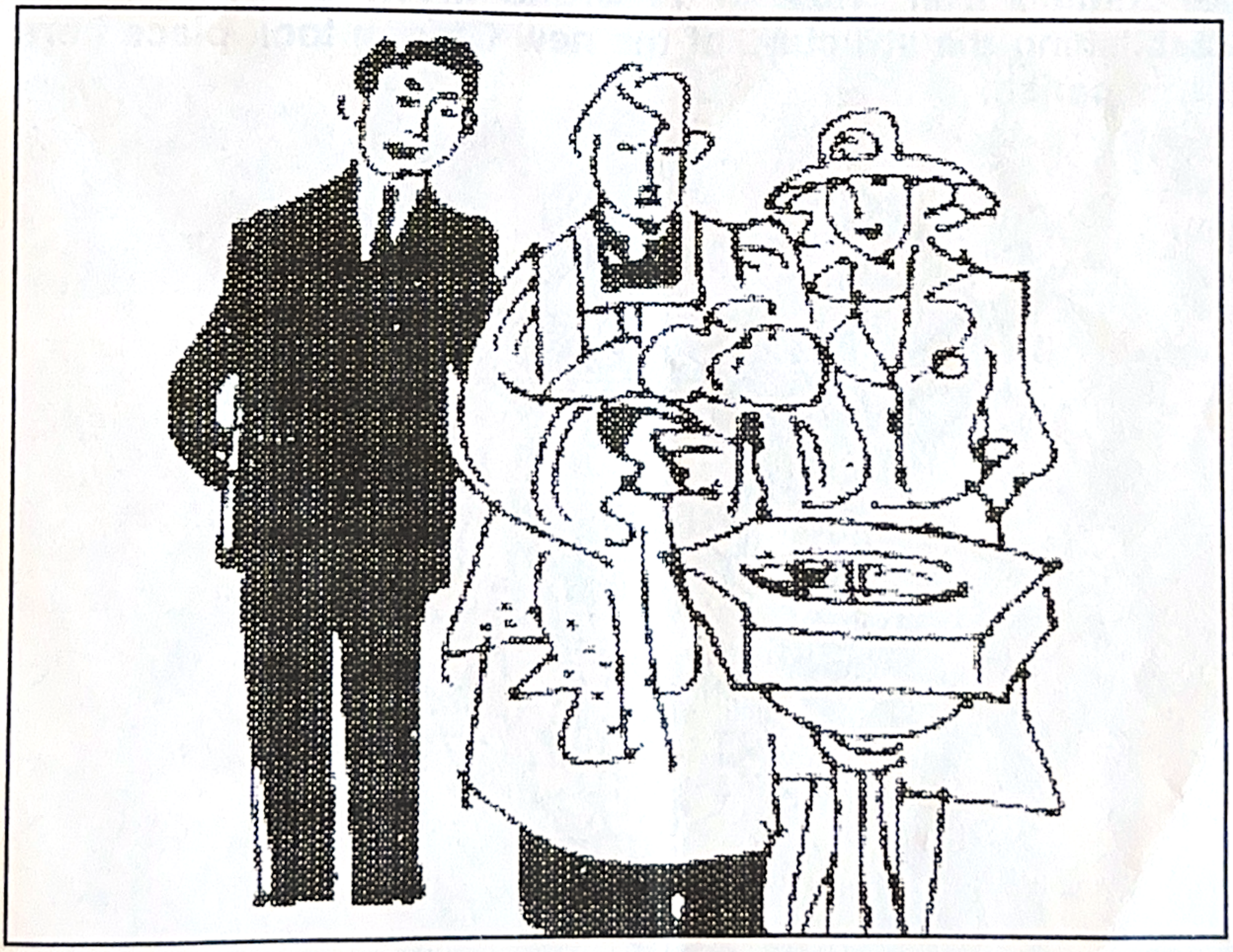



Most of the costume in this section is part of the "Tully" collection which has been kindly loaned to us for this exhibition.

5.

# A Baptism between the wars

Until the sixties, about 80% of the children of our country were baptised in Church. Many parents, even those with little more than nominal links with the Church, thought that their children were at risk until they had been 'done'. For some, this may well have been little more than superstition, but for very many, the Christian Faith ran deep and influenced every part of their lives. In an age of accepted class distinction, even the Sacraments of the Church could be administered in a variety of ways, from the elegant privacy of a society Christening, either in church or in the home, to a mass Baptism of infants of the poorer classes, conducted by the Curate in Church on a Sunday afternoon.



# Disestablishment

The Church of England in Wales was disestablished and disendowed by Act of Parliament in 1920. The Church in Wales then became a separate province of the Anglican Communion and more than half of its ancient endowments passed into secular hands. The years before disestablishment were marked by bitter controversy between the church, chapels and political parties, and the event was followed by a period of great difficulty for the Church.

As part of the task of forming the new province, the first Archbishop of Wales, was chosen here in this church on April 9th 1920 - exactly 75 years ago. The Governing Body of the Church in Wales held its twice-yearly meetings here in Llandrindod from 1922 to 1974 and much of the work of establishing the structure of the new Church took place here in this parish.

7.

# The Thirties

Our exhibition route now turns back from the altar and moves towards the Second World War at the rear of the church. The thirties were in many ways years of decline and increasing disappointment for many people. Many people in our country experienced unemployment and consequent social miseries. As economic and political failure continued, alarming signs of the approaching conflict cast their shadow over Europe and led us back towards the tragedy of another world wide conflict.

8.

# The Second World War

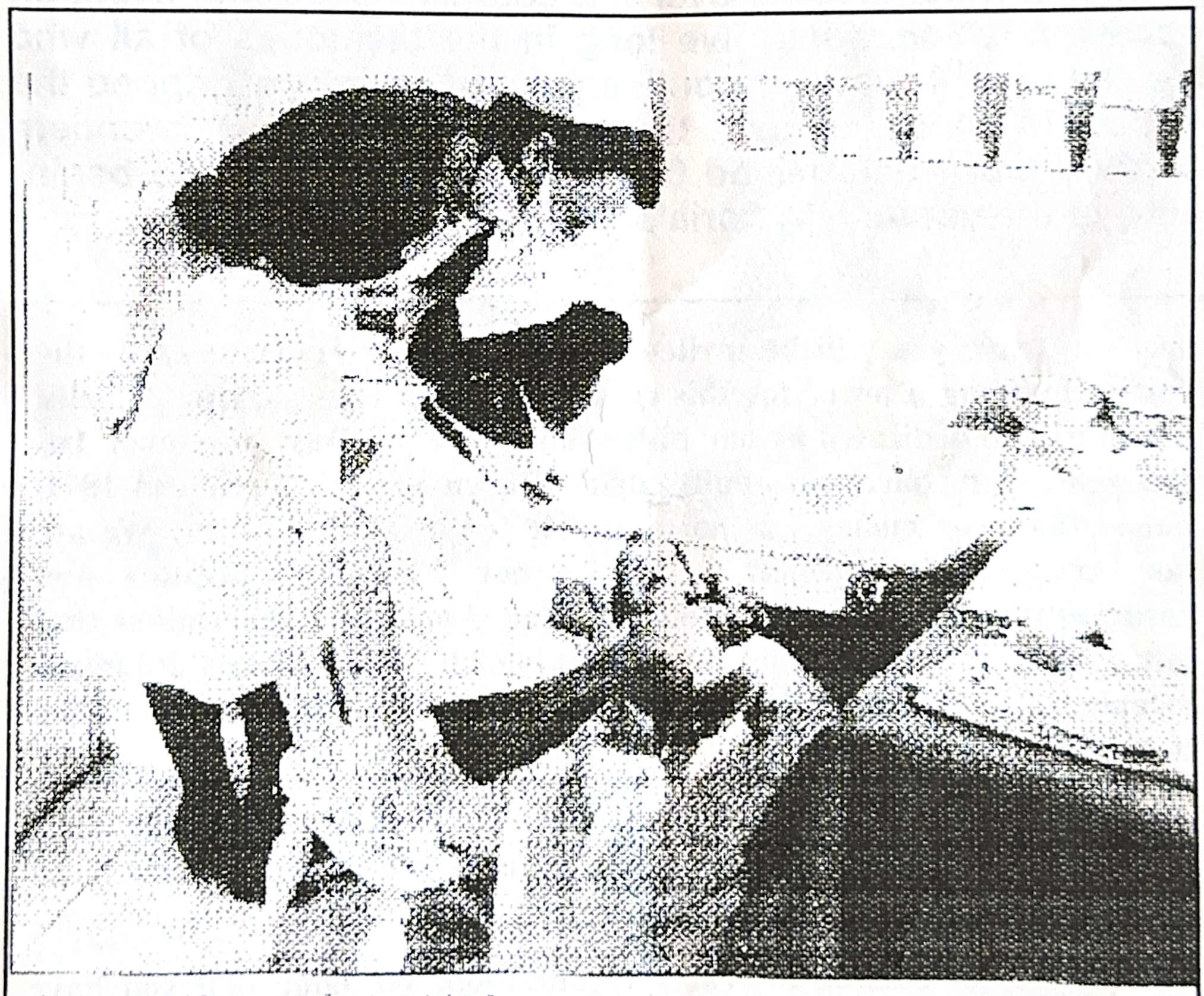
The Second World War was an immeasurable catastrophe. It left more than 50 million dead; it broke apart, not only nations and communities, but souls. Our display has therefore confined itself to a child's memories of war on the home front. Every household in the land was affected by air raid precautions, gas masks, identity cards, evacuation and food rationing and many had first hand experience of the blitz.

We pass a cottage where news of the declaration of war is being received on the wireless, on past an Anderson shelter, along a street in the blitz, past reminders of the spirit which kept our country together, to the joy of a post-war reunion and wedding.

# 9.

# The Post-War Years

Year of shortages and rationing continued long after the end of the war. There were also many signs of recovery and new hope for the people of our land. The National Health Service came into existence; the nationalisation of the railways, electricity, coal, water and other essential services took place and there were many reasons for thinking that this was the dawn of an age of prosperity and happiness for all. The excitement of the Festival of Britain in 1951 captured the spirit of the age.



*The new National Health Service offers care from cradle to grave.*

# The Coronation of Elizabeth II

Few events in our history have been welcomed with such universal joy as the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The conquest of Everest by a British led team; many indications that the shortages and restrictions of the previous few decades were at last coming to an end; and the arrival of a young Queen and her partner, seemed to herald the beginning of a new age for our nation and all its people. The fact that the Coronation could be watched by millions on television, and the spirit which produced such joyful street parties and bonfires all over the country, made this event an occasion which would live long in the memories of all who shared in it. A wave of confidence and optimism gripped the nation to carry us into the second half of the twentieth century more determined to avoid the failures of the beginning of the century. Victoria's legacy had run its course!

**As you leave you will be invited to make a contribution towards the cost of building a tower for this church and purchasing a ring of bells. These will be dedicated by our bishop on All Saints' Day, November 1st, this year. Our church was built during Queen Victoria's reign in 1871, but at that time money was not available for building a tower. We are now completing a project begun by our Victorian ancestors and ensuring that their legacy and ours is handed on to the generations that follow. This is the Faith and the Church which the Victorians did much to enhance and which we now wish to hand on to the children of the twenty-first century.**

**God has preserved us in this nation through a century of change since the death Queen Victoria in 1901. In gratitude, we offer our thanks and praise to Him.**

**Thank you for coming to visit our exhibition. We hope that you have enjoyed it, and that you will come again next year!**

*Geraint Hughes, Rector.*